

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 20.606

of the General Counsel (022A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5904)

[57 FR 4109, Feb. 3, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 20450, May 7, 1996]

§ 20.605 Rule 605. Other persons as representative.

(a) *Scope of rule.* This section applies to representation other than by a recognized organization, an agent admitted to practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs, or an attorney-at-law.

(b) *Who may act as representative.* Any competent person may be recognized as a representative for a particular claim, unless that person has been barred from practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) *Designation.* The designation of an individual to act as an appellant's representative may be made by executing a VA Form 22a, "Appointment of Attorney or Agent as Claimant's Representative." This form gives the individual power of attorney to represent the appellant in all matters pertaining to the presentation and prosecution of claims for any and all benefits under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. In lieu of using the form, the designation may be by a written document signed by both the appellant and the individual representative, which may be in the form of a letter, which authorizes a named individual to act as the appellant's representative only with respect to a specific claim involving one or more specific benefits. The document must include the name of the veteran; the name of the appellant if other than the veteran (e.g., a veteran's survivor, a guardian, or a fiduciary appointed to receive VA benefits on an individual's behalf); the applicable Department of Veterans Affairs file number; the appellant's consent for the individual representative to have access to his or her Department of Veterans Affairs records; the name of the individual representative; a description of the specific claim for benefits to which the designation of representation applies; and a certification that no compensation will be charged or paid for the individual representative's services. The designation,

in either form, must be filed with the agency of original jurisdiction or, if the appellate record has been certified to the Board for review, with the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The designation will be effective when it is received by the agency of original jurisdiction or, if the appellate record has been certified to the Board for review, by the Board of Veterans' Appeals. A properly filed designation made prior to appeal will continue to be honored, unless it has been revoked or unless the representative has properly withdrawn.

(d) *Representation of more than one appellant.* An individual recognized as an appellant's representative under this Rule may represent only one appellant. If an individual has been recognized as a representative for one appellant and wishes to represent another appellant, he or she must obtain permission to do so from the Office of the General Counsel as provided in § 14.630 of this chapter.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5903)

[57 FR 4109, Feb. 3, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 20450, May 7, 1996]

§ 20.606 Rule 606. Legal interns, law students and paralegals.

(a) *Consent of appellant.* If it is contemplated that a legal intern, law student, or paralegal will assist in the appeal, written consent must be obtained from the appellant. The written consent must include the name of the veteran; the name of the appellant if other than the veteran (e.g., a veteran's survivor, a guardian, or a fiduciary appointed to receive VA benefits on an individual's behalf); the applicable Department of Veterans Affairs file number; the name of the attorney-at-law; the consent of the appellant for the use of the services of legal interns, law students, or paralegals and for such individuals to have access to applicable Department of Veterans Affairs records; and the names of the legal interns, law students, or paralegals who will be assisting in the case. In the case of appeals before the Board in Washington, DC, the signed consent must be submitted to: Director, Management and Administration (01E), Board of Veterans' Appeals, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. In the case